

TRANSCRIPT OF BROADCAST

By

Fulton Lewis, Jr.

Station WGMS at 7-7:15 P. M. . . .  
10 February 1958

*LRH*  
*2:15 PM*  
*FW*  
*1500*  
*LRH*

Down here in Dallas, Texas, whence this broadcast is originating tonight, my disclosures about Radio Free Europe and the Crusade for Freedom, which raises the funds to support it, seems to have stirred up some little furor to the extent that the local chairman of the Crusade, Mr. Ben Rutten, has denounced me publicly as peddling a lot of lies and of not knowing what I am talking about. This does not disturb me personally because it will all come out in the wash sooner or later in the congressional hearings, but it is disturbing in that it is the general pattern of reaction of other distinguished local and regional leaders all the way up to the top of the Crusade, who have been sold a bill of goods by the professional fund-raisers who man the Crusade.

It's disturbing from my point of view because I had hoped that by exposing the facts about the Crusade for Freedom, they, being the responsible leaders that they are, would go to work to force an overhaul and to clean up the personnel and the policies of Radio Free Europe, which after all is the sole objective in the months of work that I put into this series of broadcasts. The professional fund-raisers, by way of avoiding any such developments, have told their sponsors that for some reason unknown to them I am bent on destroying Radio Free Europe and that, by being fair, I am serving the cause of Communist Russia.

Obviously, I have no remote desire to destroy Radio Free Europe. Its purported objectives are entirely admirable and they should be pursued with the greatest of vigor. Furthermore, I think it's highly desirable that the job be financed by private contributions through such a movement as the Crusade for Freedom. The point I have been making from the outset is that the stated objectives are not being carried out and that, instead of a project of anti-Communist truth to the people behind the iron curtain, the daily fare of Radio Free Europe that is being poured out is not anti-Communist at all--it is only anti-Russian.

There's abundant proof in this in the actual transcript of the Munich broadcast, of which I have available a stack of original typewritten script about 18 inches high--originals

even to the penciled corrections and alterations made by the person who wrote them and broadcast them over the air. These broadcasts are a systematic depression of any move, of any anti-Communist event in the Western world, anything that would suggest that Communists and Communism are not in perfectly good standing in the free Western civilization--that is the story of Radio Free Europe.

One of my informants in Munich tells me that there is a total blackout on any news about the House Un-American Activities Committee, the Internal Security Sub-committee and all the similar activities, and that there has been a ban all the way through on even the mention of the late Senator Joseph R. McCarthy. One broadcaster violated this ban on one occasion, he says, and was called on the mat the following morning.

My contention has been that the American public, which provides the money, directly or indirectly by which the Crusade for Freedom finances the Free Europe operations, has been given to believe that the broadcasts for Free Europe constitute a message of hope and freedom and anti-Communism to inspire the hope in the iron curtain people that they may some day regain their own freedom, and to keep that hope alive. Instead of this, the evidence demonstrates that the entire Munich operation was being run as a sounding board for the repudiated politicians who led the various national front governments of the countries involved during the period beginning with the end of the war and ending in February 1948. These were the people who were outright collaborators with Russian Communists when they started for their personal political advantage, all through that time and these are the people who, when the Russian Communist puppets drove them out, wanted to continue their old political lies to the people at home and have done so ever since through the medium of Radio Free Europe.

I maintain that if they can get financing from sources that are fully aware of what the money is being used for and if the West German Government is willing to permit it, it's alright for them to go ahead. I don't agree with their view. I don't approve of the operation, but that is their affair. (Garble) But for such an operation to be financed by contributions from people and corporations under the guise that this is some great message of freedom, is strictly fraudulent so far as I'm concerned. I think it calls for a thorough clean-up and that's what I've been trying to push.

Mr. Ben Rutten here is president of one of the largest banks in Dallas, he's a respected citizen, but he has not made any comparable investigation into the facts that I have presented. His (garble) disclaimer (garble) is based on the defensive statements of the very people who are responsible for the present situation, and obviously they are statements of false justification and they are not reliable evidence.

The fact is that one top official in Radio Free Europe itself in New York is aware of the situation, knows that it should be corrected, but he can't get through the (garble) of influence and red tape (garble) and bureaucracy to get anything done. And by way of adding to his frustration, the big name sponsors unwittingly protect these entrenched politicians and playboys because they can't bring themselves to face the facts and lose a little face. Anyway, Mr. Rutten's Crusade here in Dallas is having rough going as it is having elsewhere in these general parts, and at least part of the public seems disinclined to accept the (garble) declaration that what I have reported to you is a fabric of untruth, particularly when nobody offers the first evidence to prove that they are untrue.

Within the next couple of days, ladies and gentlemen, I shall present to you over this microphone some first-hand reports from persons who have made extensive and lengthy personal investigations of Radio Free Europe. They're on the scene in Munich, and we'll see what they have to say about what's going on over there and about whether my reports to you have been accurate or not.